

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 413
By Turner B

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Ruth Holmberg on being named the American Lung Association of Tennessee's 2003 Woman of Distinction.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2003, the American Lung Association of Tennessee, in conjunction with the Proffitt's corporation, will present the 18th Annual Woman of Distinction Awards, naming Mrs. Ruth Holmberg the 2003 Tennessee Woman of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, a long-standing Chattanooga tradition, the Woman of Distinction Awards are granted to women who have distinguished themselves through their professional career accomplishments and their dedication to the community through their numerous and valuable civic and philanthropic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a Woman of Distinction is one who "volunteers her time to help improve the quality of life for others, establishes standards that inspire and encourage other women to achieve their full potential and provides leadership and influences decisions that shape and define [their] city, state and nation"; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the journalism industry and in the philanthropy of the arts, Ruth Holmberg has worked assiduously and with uncommon devotion and zeal to improve the quality of life of the fine citizens of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful businesswoman, Mrs. Holmberg has served as the Publisher of the *Chattanooga Times*, as the Chairman of the Times Printing Company, as a Member of the Boards of Directors of the Associated Press, the New York Times Company, the New York Foundation, the American Press Institute and the Tennessee Press Foundation, and in 1984, she served as the President of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Holmberg is a devoted patron of the arts, having served on the Board of Directors of the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Association (which organization she served as President from 1989 – 1992) and having played a key role in the founding of the Tennessee Arts Commission; she is an Honorary Trustee of the Hunter Museum of American Art and the Director of the Southern Arts Federation; and

WHEREAS, active in civic affairs, Mrs. Holmberg has served as Vice President of the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, as Secretary of the River City Company and as President of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce; she currently serves on the Chattanooga Advisory Council for the Trust for Public Land; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Holmberg is also a tireless advocate for education; having received her Bachelor's Degree in history from Smith College and an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law from the University of the South, she has served as President of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Public Education Foundation, as a Member of the National Board of the Smithsonian Institute, as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Public Education Network of Washington, D.C., as Chair of the Southern Center for International Studies, as an Honorary Director of Reading is Fundamental and as a Member of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, Mrs. Holmberg has been honored with the Kiwanis Distinguished Service Award, the Liberty Bell Award and the Smith College Medal, and in April 2000, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga announced the creation of the Ruth S. Holmberg Professorship in American Music; and

WHEREAS, her many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Ruth Holmberg is most grateful to share both love and companionship with her husband, Albert William Holmberg, Jr., her four children and her seven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Holmberg epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; she takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned this State the nickname of "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Ruth Holmberg, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Mrs. Ruth Holmberg on being named the 2003 Tennessee Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association of Tennessee, recognizing her outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership and community spirit, and extending to her our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.